

THE U IN FLU—Are U Ready?

7 tips to get ready for the 2010-2011 influenza season

Providers

- ☐ **Get your flu vaccine.**

Set a good example with your patients and your staff. Encourage your staff to get their flu vaccine too. Flu vaccination of healthcare workers prevents illness in staff and transmission to patients. Flu vaccine is recommended for everyone age 6 months and older.

- ☐ **Know where to get good influenza surveillance data so you can make good decisions about testing, treatment and prophylaxis for flu.**

Current influenza surveillance data is available at:

<http://www.wvidep.org/tabid/1960/Default.aspx>

- ☐ **Know how you can get good quality influenza testing.**

For information on influenza testing, see:

http://www.wvidep.org/Portals/31/PDFs/IDEP/influenza/Provider_how%20do%20%20test%20for%20influenza.pdf

- ☐ **If you use rapid tests for influenza diagnosis, take a minute to review the limitations of these tests.**

Rapid tests may give false positive results when influenza activity is low and false negative results when influenza activity is high. See:

http://www.wvidep.org/Portals/31/PDFs/IDEP/influenza/Provider_how%20do%20%20interpret%20rapid%20results_revised%20Oct2010.pdf

- ☐ **Keep up to date with antiviral treatment guidelines.**

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm>

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- **Know how to report influenza-like illness, pediatric deaths, pregnancy deaths, novel influenza and outbreaks to your local health department.**

Talk to your local health department directly if you are not sure how to report. Reporting of these conditions is required by law in West Virginia:

Weekly

- Total number of cases of influenza-like illness —*defined as fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ and cough or sore throat without another identified cause.*

Within a Week

- Pediatric death (<18 years) from influenza.

Immediately

- Novel influenza cases.
- Outbreaks of suspected or confirmed influenza.

Continue reporting of all ICU admissions and deaths among pregnant and up to six weeks post partum women with influenza infection diagnosed by a positive:

- Rapid influenza diagnostic test
- Reverse transcriptase PCR
- DFA (direct fluorescent antibody) or IFA (immunofluorescent antibody)
- Viral culture

- **Know how to get help with management of critically ill pregnant women with influenza.**

Again this year, CDC has established a 24/7 phone support line: 404-368-2133. Flu Line staff will be available to help with questions about caring for critically ill pregnant or postpartum women via telephone consultation with a board certified obstetrician.